

## Cumby Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

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KAREN ZIMMERMAN  
MANAGER

P.O. BOX 619 • 200 FRISCO  
PHONE (903) 994-2211  
CUMBY, TEXAS 75433

Mr Hundt, my organization agrees with NRTC that these exclusive programming contracts do not go along with the intent of the 1992 Cable Act. As it is, if one of my DIRECTV subscribers wishes to receive Time Warner/Viacom programming, he must purchase a second subscription to the USSB service. This makes competition very difficult and keeps the price for Time Warner/Viacom channels unnecessarily high. It also increases consumer confusion at the retail level.

My organization has invested a great deal of money in this project only to see that by not having access to the Time Warner/Viacom programming we are having a hard time competing with other sources for television in my area. Several of our potential subscribers have changed their mind about purchasing our programming because we could not offer them the HBO and Showtime packages.

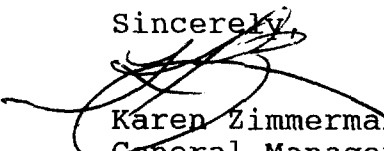
This could very well affect the outcome of our investment and as a small rural telco, we cannot afford to lose that kind of money.

We believe that the 1992 Cable Act flatly prohibits any exclusive arrangements that prevent any distributor from gaining access to cable programming to serve rural non-cables areas. That is why we supported the Tauzin Amendment, embodied in Section 19 of the Act.

We ask the FCC to remedy these problems so that the effective competition requirements of Section 19 become a reality in rural America. I strongly urge you to banish the type of exclusionary arrangements represented by the USSB/Time Warner/Viacom deal

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Sincerely,



Karen Zimmerman  
General Manager

cc:  
The Hon. Representative Jim Chapman  
The Hon. Senator Phil Gramm  
William F. Caton, Secretary  
The Hon. James H. Quello  
The Hon. Andrew C. Barrett  
The Hon. Susan Ness  
The Hon. Rachelle B. Chong



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July 22, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This letter is in support of the comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

I'm a rural utility and NRTC member delivering television programming to rural consumers who are largely not served by cable. These rural families have little choice other than satellite for receiving any type of choice television service.

I feel we need complete access to all programming, at a fair rate, with compatibility to rates paid by cable. It's funny, but I thought the 1992 Cable Act was to have addressed this issue; apparently, I was wrong.

Mr. Hundt, discriminatory pricing hurts us and the consumer. By being unable to compete in our marketplace, consumers will have no choice of programming and most likely pay higher rates than those that have access to cable. Why is it that the rural population is always paying for the excesses of the urban? It is time for the FCC to act; it is time for the FCC to enforce the wishes of the United States Congress as was put forth in the 1992 Cable Act.

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*a member owned cooperative*

1005 East Lincolnway, Jefferson, Iowa 50129

Phone 515-386-4111

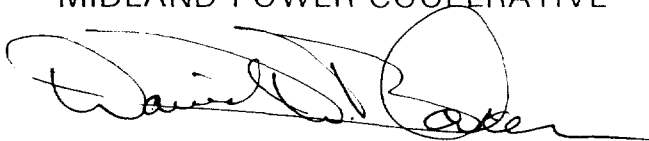
Fax 515-386-2385

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
July 22, 1994  
Page two

Please accept NRTC's position and stop this unjust practice.

Regards,

MIDLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Baker", written over a horizontal line.

David W. Baker  
Director of Economic Development  
& Member Relations

cc: Don Severson  
William F. Caton  
James H. Quello  
Rachelle B. Chong  
Andrew C. Barrett  
Susan Ness  
Senator Tom Harkin  
Senator Charles Grassley  
Representative Fred Grandy

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W., Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Cable Competition Report  
CS Docket No. 94-48

I am writing in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telephone Cooperative (NRTC) in the matter of implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of Status of Competition in the Market for Delivery of Video programming, C5 Docket No. 94-48.

We are a NRTC telephone member and an investor in the DirecTV project. Many of our customers have little or no choice other than satellite for receiving television service.

It is imperative that we have access to all programming, at rates that are fair. Without these rights, it hurts our ability to compete in our local market.

It is our understanding that the Cable Act of 1992, gave us the rights to programming. ie: Time Warner and Viacom - HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, VH-1, etc. Due to the "exclusive" distribution rights with the United States Broadcasting Company, Inc., we don't have the right to offer this programming.

As early as this morning, a potential customer, Eunice Pelphrey, stated to me that due to the fact that we could not offer her Movie Channel or HBO she decided to look elsewhere for her programming needs.

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Page Two  
Honorable Reed Hundt  
July 25, 1994

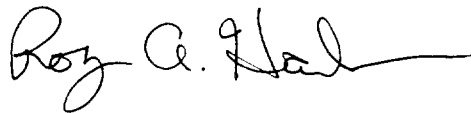
We have a substantial investment in DirecTv and need these programming rights in order to compete in the local market. We also feel that not only we are affected by this "exclusive" agreement; but also the consumer. The customer should have the opportunity to choose which programmer they want and be able to receive this programming from one source. If both DirecTv and USSB offered this programming, it would bring about effective competition: lower prices and improved service.

It is my understanding that none of the programming rights of DirecTv are exclusive and that USSB could offer those if they wished to do so.

We are respectfully requesting your help by enforcing the wishes of Congress, as put forth in the Cable Act of 1992, and banishing the exclusive agreements that has been mentioned in this correspondence.

Sincerely,

HOME SATELLITE SERVICES



Roy A. Harlow  
Director of Operations

RAH/ndt

cc: The Honorable Hal Rogers  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Wendell Ford  
The Honorable James H. Quello  
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett  
The Honorable Susan Ness  
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Secretary William F. Canton

FCC1

**Red Lake Electric  
Cooperative Inc.***One of the Minnkota Power Systems*

P.O. Box 430, 412 International Drive S.W.  
Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430  
Phone: (218) 253-2168

July 18, 1994

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The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This letter is in support of the Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (N.R.T.C.) in the matter of Implementation of Section 19 of the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, , Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is a N.R.T.C. member affiliate and will be delivering television programming to our rural consumers who are not served by cable. Since nearly all of our customers live in a sparsely populated rural area, there is virtually no cable television available to them. Their sole means of quality television programming is via satellite systems.

We do not have distribution rights for Time Warner and Viacom programming like HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, the Movie Channel, VH-1, MTV, Nickelodeon, etc. because of the exclusive distribution arrangements that have been made with United States Satellite Broadcasting Company Inc. (USSB). This lack of access to Time Warner and Viacom programming will no doubt be detrimental to our business and will hinder our ability to compete in our local area. I am unsure why other distributors within our area, most notably PrimeStar have access to HBO and Showtime while we do not. This lack of access hurts our customers because under the current USSB exclusive distribution arrangement, customers interested in receiving Time Warner and Viacom programming must subscribe to separate competing packages. That means they must get two bills each month and write out to checks. It would be much easier for the customer to have one vendor for their satellite television programming.

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The Honorable Reed Hundt  
July 18, 1994  
Page 2

We firmly agree with N.R.T.C.'s position that the F.C.C. should act to enforce the wishes of Congress, as was put forth in the 1992 Cable Act. Please give us any help you can in eliminating exclusionary arrangements represented by the USSB Time Warner-Viacom contract.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

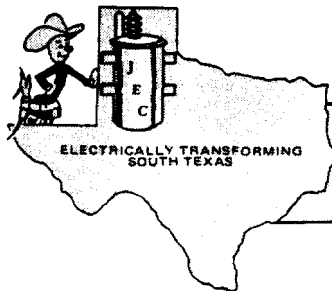
Ronnie M. Kennedy  
General Manager

cc William F. Caton, Secretary, F.C.C.  
The Honorable James H. Quello  
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett  
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
The Honorable Susan Ness

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# JACKSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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July 18, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Rm. 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In support of Comments of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, in the Matter of the Implementation of Section 19, Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming, CS Docket No. 94-48.

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Jackson Electric Cooperative, Inc., a member of NRTC, is deeply committed to the delivery of television programming to our rural customers. Many of our customers have no access to cable television; the only option available has been satellite service.

In order for us to provide quality programming to this largely unserved market at fair and competitive rates, we need complete access to all programming at equitable rates. This is necessary to allow us to compete in our local marketplace.

We understand that this has previously been addressed with the passage of the 1992 Cable Act; however, we do not currently have DBS distribution rights for Time Warner and Viacom programming (such as HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, The Movie Channel, VH-1, MTV, Nickelodeon, etc.) due to exclusive distribution arrangements made with United States Satellite Broadcasting Co. Inc. (USSB). Our market is hungry for television service; nevertheless, our rural customers want access to the same programming as their metropolitan neighbors. This impacts our ability to compete in our local area. To receive Time Warner and Viacom programming, our customers must now subscribe to two separate, competing packages due to the USSB-exclusive distribution arrangement. Why should other distributors (such as PrimeStar) have access to this programming, and we do not? If both DIRECTV and USSB offered these services, customers would have a choice of service providers, resulting in both lower prices and improved service. DIRECTV's programming contracts are not exclusive; USSB could offer

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Jackson Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
July 18, 1994  
Page Two

these services if it chose to do so.

Please assist us in this matter. We feel strongly that the FCC should enforce the wishes of Congress as expressed in the 1992 Cable Act. We ask that you monitor and address the problems being brought to your attention by banishing the type of exclusive arrangements represented by the USSB/Time Warner/Viacom deal.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Yours truly,

Lina Hill   
DBS Business Manager, JEC-TV  
Jackson Electric Cooperative, Inc.

cc: Mr. William F. Caton  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW, Rm 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 844  
Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable Susan Ness  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 832  
Washington, D.C. 20554

The Honorable James H. Quello  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW, Re. 802  
Washington, D.C. 20554

✓ The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW, Rm. 826  
Washington, D.C. 20554